

SOME COMMENTS ON *HOTWC 2000*

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I very much appreciate being requested to present a very brief overview of the history leading up to this 10th anniversary of the Halon Options Technical Working Conference.

The very first papers on halon replacement research resulting from ozone depletion concerns were presented in 1986 and 1987 at Navy and Air Force conferences (1, 2). Note that both of these papers were presented prior to the initial signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (September 16, 1987, with entry into force on January 1, 1989). The conferences at which these papers were presented were, however, on fire protection in general, rather than specifically on halon research.

The first conference, which dealt only with research and other issues arising from the Montreal Protocol, was the Conference on Substitutes and Alternatives to CFCs and Halons, sponsored by the Conservation Foundation and held in Washington, DC on 13-15 January 1988. This conference later became the International Conference on CFC and Halon Alternatives. When the 1988 conference was first being organized, only CFCs were mentioned in the proposed conference title. I pointed out to the organizers that there was another class of compounds being regulated, the halons, and the name was changed accordingly.

The first conference concerning only research and other issues on halons resulting from the Montreal Protocol was the Halon Alternatives Technical Working Conference, which was held in Albuquerque on the 30 April – 1 May 1991. This conference later (1994) became the Halon Options Technical Working Conference (*HOTWC*). This year we have the 10th halon conference held here in Albuquerque.

The First Albuquerque conference, held in 1991, was a two-day conference and attracted 78 people from 6 countries, with 25 papers presented. The following year, in 1992, the conference went to three days and has stayed that way since. In 2000, the conference had 150 attendees from 10 countries with presentation of about 60 papers.

The Albuquerque conferences were set up to achieve three objectives. First, the conferences were to have a technical orientation. Research would be emphasized. Second, comprehensive proceedings would be published. Complete sets of the proceedings are still available and are still being requested and contain all of the papers presented (in a very few cases only the abstracts). Third, the Albuquerque conferences have encouraged side meetings and discussions outside the main meeting. This type of interaction is important in helping to coordinate research efforts and in getting new information out to the halon research community as rapidly as possible.

Over the years, the Albuquerque conferences have had outstanding keynote addresses. A list is given below. Note that in 1999, we also asked David Ball of Kidde to present a special talk. "Keeping the Options Open," following the keynote address by James O'Bryon.

1991	Jack Riley HARC/ANSUL	"Fire Protection in the 90's Without Halon 1211 and Halon 1301"
1992	Gary Taylor Taylor/Wagner	"Asbestos, PCBs and Halons"
1993	Phil DiNenno Hughes Associates	"A Perspective on Halon Replacements and Alternatives"
1994	Reva Rubenstein US EPA	"EPA's 'State of the Union' on Halon Substitutes"
	Karen Metchis US EPA	"The Regulation of Halon and Halon Substitutes"
1995	Donald Dix Office of Director, Defense R&E	"Science & Technology Challenges"
1996	Barbara Kucnerowicz-Polak Fire Service, Poland	"Halon Phaseout in Countries in Transition"
1997	Eric Kennedy/Bodzio Dlugogorski University of Newcastle, Australia	"Thermal and Catalytic Hydrodehalogenation of Halon 1301 with Methane"
		"Water Vapour as an Inerting Agent"
1998	Steve Seidel White House Climate Change Task Force	"The Kyoto Conference and Beyond"
1999	James O'Bryon, Deputy Director OT&E, Office of Secretary of Defense	"Think Globally, Act Globally"
2000	Dick Gann NIST	"A Millennial View of Fire Suppression"

I hope to *see* all of you at the 20th anniversary of *HOTWC*, here in Albuquerque, in 2010.

REFERENCES

1. "Next-Generation Fire Extinguishing Agent," US Navy Fire Protection Association, 15 March 1986, Cincinnati, OH.
2. "Ozone Depletion by Halon Suppressants," USAF Fire Protection Conference, 29-30 March 1987, Cincinnati, OH.